THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) East Bengal (Bangla Desh) refugees who have migrated to India have been settled in different States. Those who have been settled in Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, West Bengal, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh are entitled to get the benefits of Scheduled Castes, as the community Namshudra has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in these States. Persons who have been settled in States like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh under Rehabilitation Programme are not getting the benefits of Scheduled Castes, since the community Namshudra has not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in these States.

Reaction of Prime Minister's warning on Traders/Manufacturers

1836. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reaction of the traders/manufacturers of cement, sugar, steel etc in view of the Prime Minister's warning against the steep rise in prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to bring forward a legislation in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) There has been an over-all favourable reaction to the Prime Minister's warning against the steep rise in prices of essential commodities. The *Cement producers* have agreed to roll back their ex-stockists price to the level of 31st March, 1990. As per reports received by Government, the prices of cement have started coming down to the desired level. In case of *sugar*, organisations such as the Bombay Sugar Merchant's Association have appreciated the action taken by the Government and have assured to cooperate with the Government in regular flow of supply of sugar in the open market. The prices of sugar have already softened in recent weeks. In the case of *Steel*, the Joint Plant Committee which is a producers' body fixes the prices of certain steel items produced by the integrated steel plants; there has recently been no steep increase in the steel prices of the main producers. *Tea* prices have been kept under check as a result of discussions held by the Monitoring Committee on Tea Prices of the Ministry of Commerce with the representatives of industry and trade, who have cooperated in the matter.

(b) and (c) There are already legislations, namely (i) The Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and (ii) The Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. No further legislation is therefore contemplated.

राजनीति में सक्रिय केन्द्रीय भाण्डागारण निगम के कर्मचारी

1837. **श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम :** क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि केन्द्रीय भाण्डागारण निगम के कुछ कर्मचारी विभिन्न राजनैतिक दलों के पदाधिकारी भी हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;